

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

EB-07 DOTE-00 /076 W

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O R 171717Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5183

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON: DIS-  
CUSSION OF INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS  
AND OTHER BERLIN MATTERS

REF: BONN 20378

1. THE REGULAR MONTHLY QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON HOSTED TODAY BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, ATTENDED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF, WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO A REHASH OF LAST NIGHT'S DISCUSSION OF THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS. GEHLHOFF EXPRESSED THE APPRECIATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROMPT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE THIS MORNING OF ALL THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS TO THE GERMAN REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE IN THE PROPOSED PACKAGE OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR (COMMENT: ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE AMBASSADORS WERE ABLE TO CONVEY THESE CONCURREN-

CES DURING THE COURSE OF THE MORNING SO THAT FRG CABINET CONSIDERATION WAS ABLE TO PROCEED AS DESIRED BY THE CHANCELLOR).

2. GEHLHOFF FRANKLY ADMITTED HIS OWN PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT AS HAVING HAD TO REQUEST ACTION SO PRECIPITATEDLY, AND CONFESSED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF HAD ONLY BEEN PARTIALLY INFORMED UP TO THE LAST MINUTE AS TO THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GERMAN NEGOTIATORS HAD BEEN COMING DIRECTLY OUT OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE AND FREQUENTLY FROM THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF. HE COMMENTED THAT, IN THE FUTURE, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BE KEPT MORE CURRENTLY POSTED BY THE CHANCELLERY ON FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT IT COULD CARRY OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY ITS RESPONSIBILITY OF INFORMING AND CONSULTING WITH THE THREE ALLIES IN THE BONN GROUP. ALL THREE AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND THAT THE PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN THIS CASE WAS INADEQUATE TO PERMIT AN ORDERLY EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS.

3. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF VAN WELL'S PRESENTATION AT THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING IN BRUSSELS (SECTO 24035) IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE SUGGESTED THAT THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS SHOULD TAKE A HARD LINE WITH AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV IN REFUTING SOVIET CLAIMS AND TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION. IT QUICKLY BECAME OBVIOUS THAT GEHLHOFF HAD NO CONCRETE EXAMPLES TO PROVIDE OF CASES WHERE A HARDER LINE MIGHT HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE, AND EACH OF THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHAT THEY HAD BEEN SAYING TO ABRASIMOV MET THE NEEDS OF EACH OCCASION AND OF THE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION. THEY ALL AGREED THAT, WHILE THE WESTERN POSITION HAD TO BE STAUNCHLY MAINTAINED, THE CHANCE OF BRINGING ABOUT ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE STANDARD SOVIET POSITION WAS MINIMAL.

HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, BERLIN ACCESS CONTINGENCY PLANNING, BERLIN HIGHWAY ACCESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BONN20429  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750438-0989  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcpz.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BONN 20378  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QUADRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON: DIS- CUSSION OF INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GE, GC, WB, US, UK, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006